

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5435

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 18645

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON MEETING WITH KORNIYENKO DEC. 16

REF: STATE 274816; MOSCOW 18389

1. SUMMARY. WORKING LUNCH WITH KORNIYENKO PASSED IN PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE, THOUGH HE WAS HIS USUAL CANTANKEROUS SELF ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES. DESPITE PROGRESS ON TRADE REFORM ACT, HE HEWED TO OLD SOVIET LINE THAT IT IS DISCRIMINATORY AND HINTED THAT SOVIETS MAY REVIEW QUESTION OF LEND-LEASE PAYMENTS. KORNIYENKO SAID SOVIET SALT NEGOTIATORS WOULD BE READY TO RETURN TO GENEVA JANUARY 20TH OR 21ST, AND ASKED WHEN US WOULD BE READY. KORNIYENKO SEEMED INTERESTED IN PROBING FOR IDEAS ON 1975 SUMMIT BUT OFFERED NOTHING CONCRETE HIMSELF. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT LACK OF PROGRESS ON INFORMATION ASPECT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AND NOTED THAT EMBASSY HAD PLANS TO INCREASE PERSONNEL. OTHER SUBJECTS TREATED: NEW CONSULATES, EXIM CREDITS, NEW EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION, KIEV CONSULATE, SENATOR BUCKLEY, AND POSSIBLE SOVIET LIAISON PROCEDURE TO DEAL WITH CONSULAR PROBLEMS.

2. 1975 SUMMIT. PARTICIPATING IN WORKING LUNCH WERE KOMPLEKTOV AND FEDOSEYEV ON SOVIET SIDE AND BREMENT AND ZIMMERMANN ON OUR (MATLOCK ON LEAVE). KORNIYENKO'S PRIMARY PURPOSE APPEARED TO BE TO GET BALL ROLLING ON THOUGHTS FOR 1975 SUMMIT. ON TIMING, HE SAID DISCUSSION TO DATE HAD BEEN IN TERMS OF MAY-JUNE, BEFORE THE SUMMER MONTHS, AND THIS SEEMED

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DESIRABLE. HE HAD NOTHING MORE SPECIFIC ON DATES. AMBASSADOR

SUGGESTED THAT THIS TIME IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR BREZHNEV TO SEE SOME MORE OF THE US; KORNIYENKO AGREED. HE SPOKE HOPEFULLY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW AGREEMENTS (TO SUPPLEMENT SALT) BUT AGREED WITH US THAT AGREEMENTS FOR THEIR OWN SAKE WOULD NOT BE A VERY GOOD IDEA. KORNIYENKO SUGGESTED THAT CURRENT AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE REVIEWED TO ASSESS HOW THEY WERE FUNCTIONING, DETERMINE AREAS DESERVING GREATER ATTENTION, ETC. HE OPINED THAT SOME SORT OF POLITICAL AGREEMENT WAS NEEDED TO BALANCE ARMS AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE SIGNED AT THAT TIME.

3. HE OFFERED NO SUGGESTIONS OF HIS OWN, BUT LATER IN THE CONVERSATION (AND WITHOUT ALLUDING TO THE SUMMIT) ASKED IF WE HAD GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO A NEW CONSULAR SITE IN THE USSR (TO BALANCE THE SOVIET DESIRE FOR CHICAGO) FOLLOWING THE KIEV-NEW YORK EXCHANGE. WHEN KORNIYENKO PRESSED REPEATEDLY FOR OUR IDEAS, AMBASSADOR, STRESSING HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SAID HE FELT TASHKENT OR TBILISI MIGHT BE POSSIBILITIES. KORNIYENKO SEEMED TO ACCEPT IDEA OF TASHKENT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, BUT DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE RESERVE ON TBILISI. AMBASSADOR NOTED NUMBER OF US TOURISTS VISITING THERE AS ONE REASON FOR CONSIDERING TBILISI.

4. SALT. KORNIYENKO ASKED EARLY IN THE CONVERSATION WHEN THE US WOULD BE READY TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW WE DID NOT YET HAVE A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL ON DATES. KORNIYENKO SAID THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE READY TO BEGIN THE 20TH OR 21ST OF JANUARY.

5. AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION, TRADE BILL, EXIM. IN CONTEXT DISCUSSION OF THE DESIRABILITY OF REVIEWING CURRENT AGREEMENTS, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE FAILURE TO RESOLVE THE INFORMATION ASPECT OF OUR JOINT COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE. HE ALSO NOTED PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS ON GRAIN SUPPLY AND POINTED TO NECESSITY IN FUTURE OF RECEIVING ADVANCE INFORMATION ON SOVIET PURCHASING PLANS. KORNIYENKO PLEADED IGNORANCE OF WHAT HAD GONE ON AT THE WASHINGTON JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING AND THEN LAUNCHED INTO A DIATRIBE ABOUT US "DISCRIMINATION" IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS. HE OBJECTED STRONGLY TO ANY PROPOSED LEGISLATION (I.E. DOMENICI AMENDMENT TO TRADE BILL) THAT WOULD CONDITION TRADE WITH USSR ON AGRICULTURAL DISCLOSURE STIPULATIONS. INFORMALLY SUCH DIFFICULTIES CAN BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN

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US, HE SAID. HOWEVER, IF GIVEN THE STATUS OF LAW THIS WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT. HE ARGUED THAT THE EXIM SITUATION (DESPITE THE RECENT PROGRESS WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD OUTLINED) WAS ALSO DISCRIMINATORY BECAUSE IT SINGLED THE SOVIET UNION OUT IN AN ADVERSE MANNER. HE FURTHER CONTENDED THAT--WHETHER IT PASSES OR NOT--THE TRADE REFORM ACT WAS INHERENTLY DISCRIMINATORY BECAUSE OF ITS EMIGRATION PROVISION AND ITS DISTINCTION BETWEEN "NON-MARKET" AND OTHER COUNTRIES. HERE KORNIYENKO

SPOKE WITH A GOOD DEAL OF VEHEMENCE. HE SAID THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, IT WAS ARGUABLE WHETHER THE TRADE BILL WAS REALLY A STEP FORWARD IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID THAT, IF THE US INSISTS ON IMPOSING CONDITIONS ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE USSR MIGHT HAVE TO LOOK OVER THE WHOLE RANGE OF BILATERAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING LEND-LEASE--THUS HINTING THAT THE SOVIETS MAY BE CONSIDERING HOLDING UP ON THE REMAINING LEND-LEASE PAYMENTS AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE EIGHTEEN-MONTH EMIGRATION TRIAL PERIOD EXPIRES. AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NEW LEGISLATION WAS NOT WHAT ADMINISTRATION HAD HOPED FOR ORIGINALLY: NEVERTHELESS, IT REPRESENTED SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD. IN ASSESSING IT, ONE HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POLITICAL REALITIES IN US OVER TIME, AND WITH GROWTH IN MUTUAL CONFIDENCE WHICH HOPEFULLY WOULD TAKE PLACE, CONDITIONS ON TRADE AND CREDIT WOULD BE EASED. KORNIYENKO REFUSED TO BE MOLLIFIED, HOWEVER, AND PERSISTED IN HIS CRITICAL LINE.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5436

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 18645

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6. NEW EMBASSIES. KORNIYENKO COMPLAINED THAT AT EVERY TURN THE US WAS HOLDING THE USSR UP, AND REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NOW PROGRESS ON THIS AND PROVIDED THE BASIC DATA. (WE ARE FOLLOWING UP BY SEINDING KOMPLEKTOV A DETAILED RESUME OF THE DATA PROVIDED IN REFTEL A, SINCE THE USA DIVISION APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY.) KORNIYENKO ASKED WHEN THE US ARCHITECTS PLANNED TO BE IN MOSCOW AND WAS TOLD MI-FEBRUARY. THE SOVIETS SEEMED INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF THE CHANCERIES MIGHT BE FINISHED BY 1976, THE "BICENTENNIAL YEAR" AS THEY NOTED (WE SAID THIS DID NOT SEEM REALISTIC). THEY

ALSO ASKED IF ALL US EMBASSY PERSONNEL WOULD LIVE IN THE NEW COMPLEX; WE ANSWERED THAT MOST WOULD BUT THERE WOULD STILL BE THE NEED FOR HOUSING OUTSIDE THE COMPLEX. AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE THAT WE HAD CURRENT PLANS TO INCREASE PERSONNEL IN SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE EMBASSY AND WOULD NEED

ADDITIONAL HOUSING. ON TEST BORINGS, KORNIYENKO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS IN WASHINGTON HAD ALREADY COMPLETED AND PAID FOR BORINGS. AMBASSADOR REJOINED THAT WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH UPDK BUT THAT UPDK HAD SUGGESTED A WASHINGTON-LEVEL RATHER THAN A MOSCOW-LEVEL PRICE. KORNIYENKO SAID UPDK WAS QUITE RIGHT TO MAKE THAT POINT AND WE, OF COURSE, DISAGREED.

7. KIEV. WE INFORMED KORNIYENKO THAT THIS WEEK OR NEXT THE DEPARTMENT PLANNED TO GIVE THE SOVIET EMBASSY A NOTE SETTING OUT OUR PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS.
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8. COMMERCIAL VISA PROCEDURES. KORNIYENKO DID NOT RAISE THIS.

9. SENATOR BUCKLEY. KORNIYENKO SEEMED PARTICULARLY ANGERED BY SENATOR BUCKLEY'S BEHAVIOR IN MOSCOW AS WELL AS AFTER HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE USSR; AND KOMPLEKTOV NOTED THAT SENATOR WAS OFFICIALLY A "GUEST OF THE EMBASSY" WHILE HE WAS HERE. KORNIYENKO SAID THAT THE USA DIVISION HAD DONE ITS BEST TO GIVE THE SENATOR WHAT HE WANTED, AND HAD MADE A STRONG AND SUCCESSFUL PITCH TO THE INTERIOR MINISTER TO RECEIVE HIM. IN LIGHT OF THIS, HE FOUND SENATOR BUCKLEY'S ATTITUDE UNFORTUNATE. WE SAID THAT OBVIOUSLY SENATOR BUCKLEY WAS NOT UNDER EMBASSY CONTROL DURING HIS VISIT, BUT THAT WE THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE USEFUL FOR BOTH THE US AND SOVIET SIDE THAT SENATORIAL CRITICS OF THE SOVIET UNION HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE THE COUNTRY FOR THEMSELVES. (A SIDE COMMENT TO KOMPLEKTOV THAT THE SAME MIGHT BE TRUE FOR SENATOR JACKSON DREW NOTHING BUT A SNEER.)

10. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION ON WAY OUT, AMBASSADOR RAISED WITH KORNIYENKO IDEA THAT SOVIET LIAISON OFFICER SHOULD BE DESIGNATED TO ASSIST IN CONNECTION WITH INCIDENTS OF THE KIND WHICH TOOK PLACE DECEMBER 8 WHEN SOVIET CITIZEN CHAINED HIMSELF TO EMBASSY FENCE (REFTEL B). KORNIYENKO DID NOT REJECT SUGGESTION BUT SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. WHEN HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF EMBASSY CALLING MFA IN SUCH CASES, AMBASSADOR NOTED TIME-URGENCY OF INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND AND SUGGESTED THAT SOMEONE WHO COULD DEAL DIRECTLY AND AUTHORITATIVELY WITH MILITIA WOULD BE DESIRABLE. KORNIYENKO, WITH REFERENCE TO SUNDAY'S INCIDENT, SAID INVESTIGATION WAS STILL PROCEEDING, ALTHOUGH HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT PERSON INVOLVED WAS MENTALLY DISTURBED.
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